NOTES:

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information can be received from:

~ The Tulsa District web page on Tar Creek located by navigating the Tulsa District Home Page (**http://www.swt.usace.army.mil**). Once at the Home Page, click on "**Library**" and scroll down to "**Miami, Oklahoma and Vicinity (Tar Creek Watershed) Feasibility Study**."

~ For more detailed information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers planning process, see the brochure titled "The Corps of Engineers Planning Process" or contact Mr. Gene Lilly.

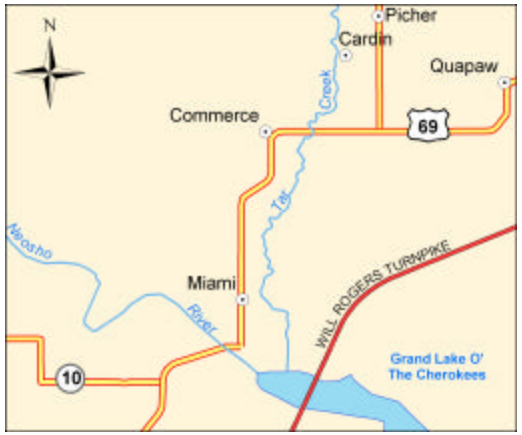
~ Questions and comments can be directed via telephone, mail, or e-mail to:

Mr. Gene Lilly
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Tulsa District
Attn: CESWT-PE-P
1645 S. 101st East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74128-4609
Phone: (918) 669-7196
Email: Douglas.E.Lilly@usace.army.mil

General Information Brochure

MIAMI, OKLAHOMA AND VICINITY

TAR CREEK WATERSHED



THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS ROLE

~ By letter, Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating requested that the Corps of Engineers develop a comprehensive solution for Tar Creek.

~ The approach to the feasibility study is to identify a comprehensive combination of actions which will reduce flooding and restore the watershed ecosystem to an acceptable condition.

~ All applicable federal, tribal, state, local and other interests would be full partners and their views will be considered fully.

LOCATION

~ The project area is located in Ottawa County, Oklahoma.

~ Ottawa County is located in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma and borders Kansas and Missouri.

~ Nearby communities include Miami, North Miami, Commerce, Cardin, Quapaw, and Picher, Oklahoma.

~ Local Native American Nations include the Cherokee Tribe, Miami Tribe, Ottawa Tribe, Peoria Tribe, Quapaw Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, and Eastern Shawnee Tribe.

~ The 2000 United States Census indicates that approximately 33,000 persons reside in Ottawa County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/EXISTING CONDITIONS

~ Tar Creek begins in Cherokee County, Kansas and flows into the Neosho River.

~ Tar Creek has a total drainage area of 53.3 square miles.

~ The Tar Creek watershed ecosystem is severely impaired due to more than 80 years of mining activities.

~ It is estimated that lead and zinc mines underlie approximately 2,540 acres in Ottawa County.

~ The Tar Creek Watershed has received highly mineralized mine drainage from the abandoned lead-zinc mines in the area.

~ Tar Creek is commonly bank-full of water, even during non-flood periods, which results in chronic flooding.

~ Approximately 75 million tons of "chat" (mine tailings) deposited by the mine companies remain on the surface of the ground.

POTENTIAL PUBLIC CONCERNS

~ Chronic flooding

~ Open or poorly sealed mine shafts

~ Impaired water quality from abandoned mine discharges

~ Remaining "chat" piles (mine tailings)

~ Depressed local economy

~ Health affects

~ Native American issues

PLANNING CONSTRAINTS

~ Any recommended project must be justified under established Federal planning criteria.

~ The recommended actions must be acceptable and supported by the local sponsor.

~ Project alternatives must comply with the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, and other applicable environmental laws and regulations.